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MEETING OF THE CENTRAL DIVISION

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America was held at Cincinnati, Ohio, under the auspices of the University of Cincinnati, December 29, 30, and 31, 1913. All the sessions were held in McMicken Hall. Professor Thomas Atkinson Jenkins, Chairman of the Central Division, presided at all the sessions except the departmental sections on the afternoon of the second day.

FIRST SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

The Central Division met at 2.35 p. m.

The Secretary, Professor Charles Bundy Wilson, presented as his report the Proceedings of the meeting of 1912 and the Program for the meeting of 1913.

This report was accepted.

The Chairman announced the following committees:

- (1) On nomination of officers: Professors O. F. Emerson, R. A. Law, P. Ogden, H. Z. Kip, and M. Levi.
- (2) On place of next meeting: J. Goebel, S. W. Cutting, A. F. Kuersteiner, D. Ford, and E. E. Brandon.
- (3) On resolutions: G. L. Swiggett, L. M. Gay, and C. H. Gray.

The reading of papers was then begun.

1. "Emigration to America in German Fiction." By Dr. Preston A. Barba, of Indiana University.

[The Democratizing of German fiction thru Scott and Cooper. The great exodus of Germans to America and its impetus to the development of German Emigration Fiction. Goethe and his embryonic plans for an "Auswanderungs-Roman." Willkomm's *Europamüder* as a precursor. The Emigration Novel of Sealsfield, and his successors, Ruppius, Gerstäcker, Strubberg, and Möllhausen.—*Ten minutes.*]

2. "Folk Criticism." By Miss Jean Olive Heck, of the Raschig School, Cincinnati.

[Children's singing games furnish our most easily accessible material for a study of contemporaneous folk poetry. Children's statements about these games throw light on the attitude of primitive people toward their ballads and other forms of literature. In Cincinnati, some adaptations and compositions indicate the beginnings of new traditional singing games. In different neighborhoods, variations suggest the conditions under which the diffusion of such traditions takes place. The reasons given by the children for their preferences among the singing games show what elements have led to the perpetuation of these traditions.—*Ten-minute summary.*]

This paper was discussed by Professors G. M. Miller, J. T. Hatfield, H. G. Shearin, T. A. Jenkins, S. W. Cutting, Miss Aldrich, Dr. J. M. Rudwin, and the author.

3. "The Modern German Fairy-Drama: Its Relation to the Drama in General and its Fundamental Thought." By Professor Herman Babson, of Purdue University.

[Comprehensive study of plays produced from 1889 to 1907 shows (a) that they fail to meet tests sufficient to accord them a place within the limits of strict drama; (b) that their underlying thought, essentially idealistic in tone, concerns itself with the struggle of the individual to realize and to express himself amid present-day conditions and forces which tend to prevent his doing so.—*Fifteen minutes.*]

4. "Some Characteristic Traits of the Early Dramas of Maurice Maeterlinck." By Professor Moritz Levi, of the University of Michigan.

[The romantic element as seen in the setting, the events, and characters. Silence, mystery, and blind forces enshrouding the personages. Nature of these forces. Symbolism. Affinity between nature and man. Scenic transition. Style: Personification; peculiarities of metaphor, etc.; repetition; brevity of speech. Imitation and originality. Beauty of these early dramas.—*Ten minutes.*]

5. "Der Teufel im Geistlichen Drama des deutschen Mittelalters." By Dr. Josef Maximilian Rudwin, of Purdue University.

[Der erste textliche Beleg für den Teufel im mittelalterlich-religiösen Drama ist der lateinisch-romanische Sponsus aus dem zwölften Jahrhundert. Das erste Auftreten des Teufels in einem kirchlichen Schauspiel ist aber nicht im Parabelspiel, sondern im Osterdrama gewesen, and zwar in der Höllenfahrtsszene, obgleich wir diese in der Kirche höchstens bis zur Mitte des dreizehnten Jahrhunderts zurückverfolgen können. Der religiöse Bühnenteufel ist keine lustige Person, sondern eine biblische Figur, und seine komische Rolle ist die natürliche Folge des Stoffes.—*Ten minutes.*]

6. "Interdependence in English Fiction." By Professor Robert Naylor Whiteford, of Toledo University.

[The purpose was to show the unconscious and conscious indeteness of the English novelists to their English predecessors in atmosphere, motivation, dialog, and characterization. This method of study of the English novels, from Sir Thomas Malory to William De Morgan, proves that there is a common national genius, a surprizing network of common reticulation, which has developept fiction as a piece of our national literature.—*Fifteen minutes.*]

This paper was discust by Professors S. W. Cutting, J. M. Clapp, and R. A. Law.

SECOND SESSION, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 29

7. Address of welcome by President Charles William Dabney, of the University of Cincinnati.

8. Address of the Chairman of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America, Professor

Thomas Atkinson Jenkins, of the University of Chicago, on "Scholarship and Public Spirit."

These addresses were followed by a reception to the members and their friends.

THIRD SESSION, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

The session began at 10.00 a. m., when the reading of papers was resumed.

9. "*Sans et Matière* in the Works of Crestien de Troyes." By Professor William Albert Nitze, of the University of Chicago.

[Sketch of a longer treatment of the technique of the twelfth-century poet. Crestien uses the terms in the prolog to his *Lancelot*. Comparison of this with the prolog of the *Erec*. Comparison of the prologs of the *Thèbes*, *Troie*, and *Lais* of Marie de France. Tracing back of the ideas there exprest to the *Liber Sapientia*, which formed a part of the *Vulgate*. The 'moral' interpretation of literature, Gregory's use of *sensus*, Dante's, etc. Finally, the bearing of this indication of method on the material (*matière*) in Crestien's Arthurian works.—*Fifteen minutes*.]

This paper was discussed by Professors L. M. Gay and O. F. Emerson.

10. "The *Roman à Clef* in Seventeenth-Century English Fiction." By Professor Alfred Horatio Upham, of Miami University.

[Under French influence the *roman à clef* seems to have had wide popularity in England after the Restoration, to have affected all narrative forms then prevalent, and to have aided materially in shifting the emphasis of fiction from heroic extravagance to concrete detail presumably founded on fact. This appears from consideration of numerous specimens still accessible, particularly in the British Museum.—*Ten-minute summary*.]

This paper was discust by Professors J. W. Kuhne and J. M. Clapp.

11. "Tannhäuser, the Pseudo-Hero of the Folk-Song." By Dr. Philip Stephan Barto, of the University of Illinois. Read by Mr. M. W. Steinke, of the Northwestern University.

[Tannhäuser as hero of the Venusberg myth appears first in the folk-song of the sixteenth century, of which numerous versions exist. A critical examination shows which one is the oldest. From the name in this version and the orthography thereof in the others we conclude the hero of the folk-song story was not originally Tannhäuser, but that this latter name is of accidental introduction.—*Ten-minute summary.*]

12. "Lodowick Carliell's Position in the Late Elizabethan Drama." By Professor Charles Henry Gray, of the University of Kansas.

[English heroic drama, formerly regarded as a new departure, has of late years been shown to be a continuation of late Elizabethan drama. The position of connecting link has been given to Davenant. More typical is Lodowick Carliell, whose plays show earlier expression of the prevailing dramatic tendency, more variety of type, and greater devotion to the heroic ideal.—*Fifteen minutes.*]

This paper was discust by Professors A. H. Upham and D. L. Thomas.

13. "The Present Crisis in the Science of Literature in Germany." By Professor Julius Goebel, of the University of Illinois.

[The development of the present situation and its explanation. The fundamental causes of the crisis. Academic fetishes. The collapse of the Scherer school. New movements.—*Fifteen minutes.*]

This paper was discust by Professors J. T. Hatfield, S. W. Cutting, C. E. Eggert, and the author.

The members of the association and their friends were entertained at luncheon by the University at half-past twelve on Tuesday in McMicken Hall.

Immediately after the luncheon the ladies were entertained by an automobil ride around the city.

FOURTH SESSION, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 30

In accordance with the custom of the Central Division, this session was devoted to three departmental meetings, representing the English, Germanic, and Romance languages and literatures. Subjects of importance to the advancement of instruction constituted the programs of the respective sections. All three sections met in lecture-rooms in McMicken Hall.

ENGLISH

Chairman—Professor John Mantel Clapp, of Lake Forest College.

Secretary—Professor George Morey Miller, of Wabash College.

The chairman announced the distribution of the "Report of the Committee on the Labor and Cost of English Teaching," and reported progress for the Committee on the Preparation of English Teachers, stating that a more complete report would be presented at the next meeting. The regular program was then taken up.

14. "The Correlation of Rhetoric, English Literature, and Foreign Literature, in College Teaching." By Professor Frank Aydelotte, of Indiana University. Read by Professor Clyde William Park, of the University of Cincinnati.

This paper was discussed by Professors J. S. Harrison, F. W. Chandler, R. A. Law, C. C. Freeman, E. McVea, A. H. Upham, H. G. Shearin, F. G. Hubbard, O. F. Emerson, G. M. Miller, C. W. Park, and D. Ford.

GERMANIC LANGUAGES

Chairman—Professor M. Blakemore Evans, of the Ohio State University.

Secretary—Professor Charles Bundy Wilson, of the State University of Iowa.

The secretary announced that a message had been received from Professor Evans stating that he was detained at home by illness. On motion, Professor George Oliver Curme, of the Northwestern University, was thereupon called to the chair. The regular program was then taken up.

15. "A Few Hints on German Composition." By Professor Max Poll, of the University of Cincinnati.

The discussion of this paper was opened by Professor G. H. Danton, and was continued by Professors H. Babson, G. O. Curme, C. E. Eggert, F. W. Truscott, L. M. Price, S. W. Cutting, and E. Elias.

16. "The Character of Intermediate Texts." By Professor Ludwig Lewisohn, of the Ohio State University.

The discussion of this paper was opened by Professor W. W. Florer. The discussion of the first paper had consumed so much time that no further discussion of this paper was possible.

17. "Requirements for the M. A. Degree." By Professor Starr Willard Cutting, of the University of Chicago.

The discussion of this paper was opened by Professor Julius Goebel. Lack of time prevented further discussion.

ROMANCE LANGUAGES

Chairman—Professor Bert Edward Young, of Vanderbilt University.

Secretary—Dean Edgar Ewing Brandon, of Miami University.

18. "How Are We to Teach French Literature to Undergraduates?" Method of presentation, reading in and out of class, etc. By Professor J. L. Borgerhoff, of the Western Reserve University.

This paper was discussed by Professors W. A. Nitze, J. Lustrat, E. E. Brandon, B. L. Bowen, M. Levi, and A. Nonnez.

19. "Prose Composition." By Professor Henry Raymond Brush, of the University of North Dakota.

This paper was discussed by Professors P. Ogden, J. Lustrat, M. Levi, J. L. Borgerhoff, B. L. Bowen, W. A. Nitze, C. A. Bruce, and O. K. Boring.

The gentlemen were received on Tuesday evening, in the rooms of the Literary Club, No. 25 East Eighth St. Among the entertainments of the evening were an interesting informal talk by President Charles William Dabney, readings, and songs in several dialects by members and guests. The Swiss songs by Professor A. C. Zembrod

and the Spanish songs by Professor A. F. Kuersteiner were particularly well received.

FIFTH SESSION, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

The session began at 9.35 a. m.

Professor F. G. Hubbard presented the following report and resolutions for the executive committee of the Central Division:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONCERNING SIMPLIFIED SPELLING.

At the fifth session of the Indianapolis meeting of the Central Division there was read a letter addressed to the Central Division by Mr. E. O. Vaile, chairman of the Committee on Simplified Spelling of the Illinois State Teachers' Association. This letter concluded with a request that our Association "endeavor in some organized, efficient way to promote the establishment of the new spellings in the usage of our universities and colleges."

On motion of Professor James Taft Hatfield it was voted that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee to investigate and to report at our next meeting (see Proceedings for 1912, page xxxiv).

The letter of Mr. Vaile reads as follows:

Oak Park, Ill., Dec. 24, 1912.

To the Modern Language Association,

Mr. Charles B. Wilson,

Secretary, Central Division.

Gentlemen:

As representing the teachers of the State of Illinois and sharing your interest in the simplification of our English spelling, may we most respectfully express to you our conviction that a great desideratum in this movement at the present time is its substantial and practical endorsement by our universities and colleges?

The teachers in our elementary and secondary schools can not with propriety introduce the new spellings in their school rooms until these spellings are more fully authorized. In the estimation of our school boards and of the school public in general the adoption of